

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02916 150418Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 150250Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3670

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2916

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AEMR, CB, VS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM
PHNOM PENH ON AID CHARTERED DC-8 RICE AIRLIFT

REFS : (A) STATE 056210, (B) PHNOM PENH 4572, (C) CINCPAC
130822Z MARCH 75, (D) STATE 057277, (E) SAIGON 2716,
(F) PHNOM PENH 4603

1. MARCH 14 WE DISCUSSED WITH MFA (LE QUAN GIANG) THE QUESTION
OF EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM PHNOM PENH
VIA AID CHARTERED DC-8 RICE AIRLIFT BACK FLIGHTS (REF E).
WE MADE POINTS CONTAINED PARA 4 REF (A) AND IN REFS (C) AND (D).
HOWEVER, WE REFRAINED FROM SUGGESTING GVN HAS SUFFICIENT ASSETS
AT THIS TIME TO EFFECT EVACUATION SINCE, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE,
GVN AIR ASSETS AT PRESENT TOTALLY DEDICATED TO HIGHEST
PRIORITY MILITARY NEEDS.

2. GIANG ACCEPTED OUR RELUCTANCE USE AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT THIS
PURPOSE PHILOSOPHICALLY, SAYING HE THOUGHT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT
OUR POINT THAT MORALE IMPACT ON CAMBODIANS OF USE U.S. AIRCRAFT
THIS PURPOSE WOULD BE SERIOUS. WE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY USING
AIR VIETNAM AIRCRAFT, BUT GIANG NOTED AIR VIETNAM ASSETS SLIM
POINTING TO LOSS 4 OF ITS 5 DC-4'S, THE FOURTH ONLY TWO DAYS
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AGO.

3. WE PRESUME GVN WILL WANT TO MAKE EFFORT EVACUATE AS MANY AS
POSSIBLE OF ESTIMATED 1200 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN PHNOM PENH
AT SUCH TIME AS THEY HAVE ASSETS FREE TO DO SO.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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